

Rev. Stephen Chase House
358 Court Street
Portsmouth
Rockingham County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-84

HABS
NH,
8-PORT,
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
NH,
8-PORT,
10-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

REV. STEPHEN CHASE HOUSE

HABS No. NH-84

Location: 358 Court Street, Portsmouth, Rockingham County,
New Hampshire.

Present Owner: Portsmouth Housing Authority, Rented to
Strawberry Banke, Inc. for Headquarters and Shop
for Guild of Strawberry Banke, Inc.

Present Occupant: Headquarters and Shop for Guild of Strawberry
Banke, Inc.

Present Use: Headquarters and Shop for Guild of Strawberry
Banke, Inc.

Significanc: Built in 1762 by John Underwood, mariner. Sold
to Barlow Trecothic, Esq. of London (one time
Mayor of the City of London) and his associate
John Tomlinson. President Washington attended a
ball here in 1789.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Physical History: Clapboarded, two-and-a-half story house.
1. Date of erection: November 1762. Deed in Rockingham County Court House. From George Walton to his son-in-law, John Underwood, mentions a corner lot "where John Underwood has erected a house".
 2. Architect: Not known.
 3. Original and subsequent owners: John Underwood, mariner, builder; Widow Dearing (his mother-in-law); Barlow Trecothic (Lord Mayor of London); Stephen Chase, merchant; Mrs. Thomas Bailey Aldrick, widow of poet; James Hannon; Chase Home for Children; Portsmouth Housing Authority.
 4. Builder, suppliers: John Underwood, being a mariner, probably had his house built by local housewrights and shipwrights. The elegant carved mantel could have been executed by one of his in-laws, a Dearing of Kittery, Maine, who were noted wood-carvers.
 5. Original plans and construction: None found to date. This house is a typical Portsmouth mansion house, with central hall,

handsome staircase with carved spindles (three types on each step; spiral, fluted, and plain), two parlors and four bedrooms, backstairs and attic rooms with dormer windows.

B. Historical Context:

President Washington attended an evening affair in this house during his visit to Portsmouth in 1789. It was then occupied by Mr. Stephen Chase, son of Rev. Stephen Chase, Harvard Graduate and minister at New Castle, New Hampshire. The Chase family apparently rented this from Barlow Trecothic of London, who owned it from 1766 until his death in 1775. The estate was not settled until December 1799, when Mr. Trecothic's brother-in-law, Rev. east Apthorp, of Cambridge, England, sold it to Mr. Stephen Chase, merchant of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In 1882 the Chase family left this house for a Home for Children and it continued as such until 1914 when a new Home was built. Mrs. Thomas Bailey Aldrich was the next owner. In her will in 1927 she left it to Mr. James Hannon, a trusted employee. He sold it about 1945 and since that time it has been privately owned by several families. In 1962 the Portsmouth Housing Authority purchased it and it is now rented to Strawberry Banke, Inc. for its Headquarters.

PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Important old views:

Two clippings from Portsmouth Herald. January 17, 1959 and June 26, 1962. (illustrated with photograph of house)

Photographic copy of deed from John Underwood to Barlow Trecothic, from New Hampshire Archives in New Hampshire Historical Society.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Probate Deeds in Rockingham County Court House in Exeter, New Hampshire

2. Secondary and published sources:

Brewster's Rambles about Portsmouth. (2. v Published at Portsmouth, 1859 and 1869.)

Gurney's Portsmouth Historic and Picturesque. (Published at Portsmouth, 1902.)

New Hampshire Gazette from 1762-1824.

Seven Generations of Descendants of Aquila & Thomas Chase.
(Chase & Chamberlain, 1928).

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